

A study of the Development of Primary Education in Dehradun district (Uttarakhand) from 2000 to 2011

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Abstract

Primary education is considered as a foundation on which the whole life of a child depends on. Primary Education decides the future of the child. The present study focuses on the development of Primary Education in Dehradun district from 2000 to 2011. The study critically examines the development of Primary Education in three major aspects such as enrolment, number of teachers and number of government primary schools in Dehradun district. There are number of government programmes running for quality education in primary schools like MDM (Mid day meal), *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* and Right to education. Right to education means that every child has a right of basic education in a school which satisfies essential norms and standards. Its overall goal was universal access of basic education, enrolment, basic infrastructure facilities and retention, bridging of gender and social gaps in education and rising up learning levels of children. Findings of the study indicate that enrolment in Government Primary schools has consistently been declining. Negative growth rate of enrolment were found in most of the years where as Population growth has been consistently positive in the last decade in Dehradun district. It was found that enrolment is shifting from government primary schools towards private primary schools. Migration of the people from rural to urban areas was also observed during the study. Teacher's growth rate was also found negative in most of the years which can badly affect the teaching and learning process in the schools. Primary schools are also usually facing lack of basic facilities like Toilets, Electricity, Play ground, libraries, Furniture and even school buildings. Overall condition of primary education in Uttarakhand is alarming and need to reconsider the whole education system. There is a need to monitor the programmes running for school going children.

Keywords- Primary Education, Development, Primary Schools, Teachers, Enrolment, Retention, Infrastructure

Introduction

After a long movement called *Uttarakhand andolan*, Uttarakhand became 27th state of India on 9, November, 2000. Uttarakhand state comprising 13 districts and most of districts are situated in hill areas. Uttarakhand is considered the land of gods, the home of Himalayas, and truly a paradise on earth attracts everyone from everywhere. The fresh air, the pure water, the chilling snow, the mountains, the

hilly villages, the honest people and a simple lifestyle is what that distinguishes Uttarakhand from rest of the world.

Geographically Uttarakhand is surrounded by Himachal Pradesh in the north-west and Uttar Pradesh in the south and shares its international borders with China and Nepal. Himalayan peaks of *Nanda Devi*, *Kedarnath*, *Trishul*, *Bandarpunch* and Mt. Kamet and the glaciers like *Gangotri*, *Pindari*, *Milam* and *Khatling* are also situated in Uttarakhand. The holy river *Ganga* and the *Yamuna* are also emerges from Uttarakhand. Uttarakhand can be divided into two parts, the western half known as Garhwal and the eastern region as Kumaon. Uttarakhand comprises thirteen districts the districts in Garhwal division are Dehradun, Haridwar, *Chamoli*, *Rudraprayag*, *Tehri Garhwal*, *Uttarkashi*, and *Pauri Garhwal*. The districts which are in Kumaon division are Almora, Nainital, Pithoragarh, *Udhamsingh Nagar*, *Bageshwar*, and *Champawat*. Uttarakhand is also a home of exotic flora and fauna and is a beautiful location for eco-tourism, and wildlife tourism. The world-famous **Corbett National Park** is also situated in the Uttarakhand state. *Rajaji National Park*, Govind Wildlife Sanctuary, *Asan Barrage*, *Chilla*, and *Nanda Devi* biosphere reserve, valley of flowers are also the famous wildlife tourism centers in the state. Cultural traditions and the cool and charming climate of Uttarakhand is a perfect holiday destination to relax and refresh. Uttarakhand is also having a diverse and rich culture and so many monuments of historical importance.

According to the census of India, Registrar General Office (2011) Uttarakhand had total population 1, 0116755 crore, in which rural population was 70, 25583 lakh and urban population was 30, 91169 lakh respectively. Decadal growth was found 19.19%. Where rural growth was 11.34% and urban decadal growth was 41.86% respectively. Sex ratio was 963 per 1000 males in Uttarakhand in 2011 census. Child sex ratio (0-6) years was 886 in the state where 894 female children were found per 1000 male child in rural areas and 864 per 1000 male child were in urban areas in Uttarakhand. Population in the age group 0-6 was 13, 28844 lakh. Rural population was 9, 68474 lakh and urban population was 3, 60370 lakh respectively. 88.33% male and 70.70% women were literate in 2011. Literacy rate was 79.63% in Uttarakhand in 2011. 77.11% was in rural and 85.20% in urban.

Primary Education

Universal elementary education has been at the centre of attention in discussions of both democracy and development in the last decade. The quality of Primary education is important not only for preparing individuals for the subsequent educational levels but to equip them with the requisite basic life skills. Present study attempts to trace the development of primary education in Dehradun district from 2001 to 2011. The Parliament of India has passed Right through which education has become fundamental right of all children of age group 6-14 years. The country is yet to achieve the elusive goal of Universalisation of Elementary education (UEE). National Programme of Nutritional support of Primary Education popularly known as the Mid-day-meal scheme was formally launched on the 15th August 1995. Main objective of midday meal scheme was to increase enrolment in the primary schools. *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* is also implemented as state's main programme for universalizing Elementary Education. Its overall goals include universal access and retention, bridging of gender and social category gaps in education and enhancement of learning levels of children. However, despite of all above initiatives taken by state and centre governments, the overall development of primary schools is not

satisfactory. Therefore there is a need to study the Development of Primary Education in Uttarakhand state. The Present study is a humble attempt in this direction.

Related Studies

Sheila Kathleen Miller, B.A. (2007) presents an empirical analysis of the determinants of parental attitudes regarding girls' education. It draws upon household survey data collected in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh. Parental attitudes regarding the importance of educating girls may contribute to the education gender gap in rural India. This thesis presents an empirical analysis of the determinants of parental attitudes regarding girls' education. India leads the world in the number of children not in school, and the majority of these are girls. **O. V. Lakshmi, (2013)** conducted a study "Problems of students in Elementary Education". The objective of the study was to find out the reasons of this problem of non enrolment, non retention, dropout and quality of education which are the basic aspects of national development. **Pramod Kumar, (2013)** points out why the state of India's primary education is shocking. Anybody can not expect steady migration of students from government to private schools and a rapid fall in quality of education in a country where education is a constitutionally guaranteed fundamental right. Then, that is the story of rural India, where 70 percent of the country's population lives. Its present and future generations are in a royal mess: poor families are spending a lot of hard-to-find cash to get half-baked education for their children. Even as the government undertakes to educate all its children under the Right to Education (RTE) Act, private schools are mushrooming in rural India and attract 10 % more students every year. **Sanjeev Kumar, (2013)** investigated Children and school in a society in transition: a study of Nepal. Poor access of children was found in schools, a long conflict in Nepal made schooling even more challenging as people helplessly migrated to safer places. Due to conflict, many children lost their homes, families, and their education for a bright future. The drop out rate of students up to class 5th was more than 50 per cent and the number of out-of-school children was very high. It was estimated that 698,000 children of 6-14 years age group were out of school in Nepal. **Barthwal, R. (2014, September 17)** points out that more than 2044 primary schools are going to close. In his article in Dainik Jagran Mr. Ravindra Barhtwal expressed deep concern about the government primary schools in Uttarakhand. In Uttarakhand there are 2044 primary schools where enrolment is below 10 and going to close. This is 13 percent of total primary schools in Uttarakhand. More than 60 government primary schools having zero enrolment. There are 380 primary schools in pauri, 330 in pithoragarh, 280 in Almora, 170 in Tihri, 165 in Chamoli, 122 in Dehradun, 105 in Uttarkashi, 90 in Rudraprayag, 75 in Bageswar, 60 in Champwat, 45 in Nainitaland 04 primary schools in Udham Singh nagar are going to close due to low enrolment which is below 10. **Bora, B. S. (2014, September 17)** Correspondent Amar Ujala, Dehradun points out that more than five thousand government primary schools are going to close in Uttarakhand. According to Mr. Bora in the session 2013-2014 more than 178 primary schools have been closed due to Zero enrolment. And more than 5,645 government primary schools are going to close. Out of 5,645 primary schools, 800 primary schools are having below 5 students in each school and remaining schools are also having below 20 students in each school. **Annual Status of Education Report, (Rural, 2012)** observed a shifting from Government schools to private schools. According to ASER report at the all India level private school enrollment has been rising steadily since 2006. The percentage of 6 to 14 year olds enrolled in private schools rose from 18.7% in 2006 to 25.6% in 2011. This year this number has further increased to 28.3%.

The increase is almost equal in primary (Std. I-V) and upper primary (Std. VI-VIII) classes. In 2012, among all private school children (age 6-14), 57.9% were boys. In 2012, more than 40% of children (age 6-14 years) in Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Meghalaya are enrolled in private schools. This percentage is 60% or more in Kerala and Manipur. Increase in private school enrollment is seen in almost all states, with the exception of Kerala, Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya (where private school enrollment was over 40% even last year) and Tripura. Since 2009, private school enrollment in rural areas has been rising at an annual rate of about 10%. If this trend continues, by 2018 India will have 50% children in rural areas enrolled in private schools. **Amar Ujala network (2015, May 22)** reported that “Government fail to educate girls”. Amar Ujala critically examined the condition of girls education in all over India. They found shocking trends of girls education. More than 52.2% girls drop out were observed from class 1st to 10th class in government schools in all over India. Similarly in Uttarakhand girls drop out rate was 37.4%. It was 50.7% in Uttar Pradesh and 42.2% in Jammu & Kashmir.

Objectives

1. To study of growth in enrolment in government primary schools in Dehradun district year wise from 2000 to 2011
2. To study of growth in enrolment in government primary schools in Dehradun district in comparison with population in Dehradun district year wise from 2000 to 2011
3. To study of growth in enrolment in government primary schools in Dehradun district in comparison with teachers

Methodology

Methodology refers to the choice and use of particular strategies and tools for data gathering and analysis. Keeping in view the nature of the present study, Historical method was adopted. Primary and secondary data was used for the data analysis.

Population and Sample

All primary schools and their students in Dehradun district constituted the Population of the study. All government primary schools and their students from Dehradun district was selected through purposive sampling techniques for the present study.

Data Analysis

Analysis of data is a soul of research process. Analysis of the data decides the conclusions of the research. Analysis of data is a process of cleaning, inspecting, and transforming data with the objective of finding useful information, suggesting meaningful conclusions, and also helping in decision-making process. The percentage growth rate technique has been used in the present study. The following formula has been used to calculate the percentage growth rate.

Computation of growth rate: $PGR = (P2 - P1) \div P1 \times K$

Where: PGR- percentage growth rate

P2 - Value of the latest year under study

P1 - Value of the Base year under study

K - Indicate hundred

Objective -1 of this study was to find out growth in enrolment in government primary schools in Dehradun district year wise from 2000 to 2011. Following table and figure is showing growth in enrolment.

Table 1

Growth (%) in Enrolment in Government Primary Schools Year wise from 2000 to 2011

Year	Growth (%) in Enrolment
2000-2001	NA
2001-2002	NA
2002-2003	-0.01
2003-2004	0.64
2004-2005	-3.93
2005-2006	5.52
2006-2007	6.38
2007-2008	-3.45
2008-2009	-11.2
2009-2010	-4.92
2010-2011	-5.45

Source- DISE Data

Growth (%) in Enrolment in Government Primary Schools Year wise from 2000 to 2011

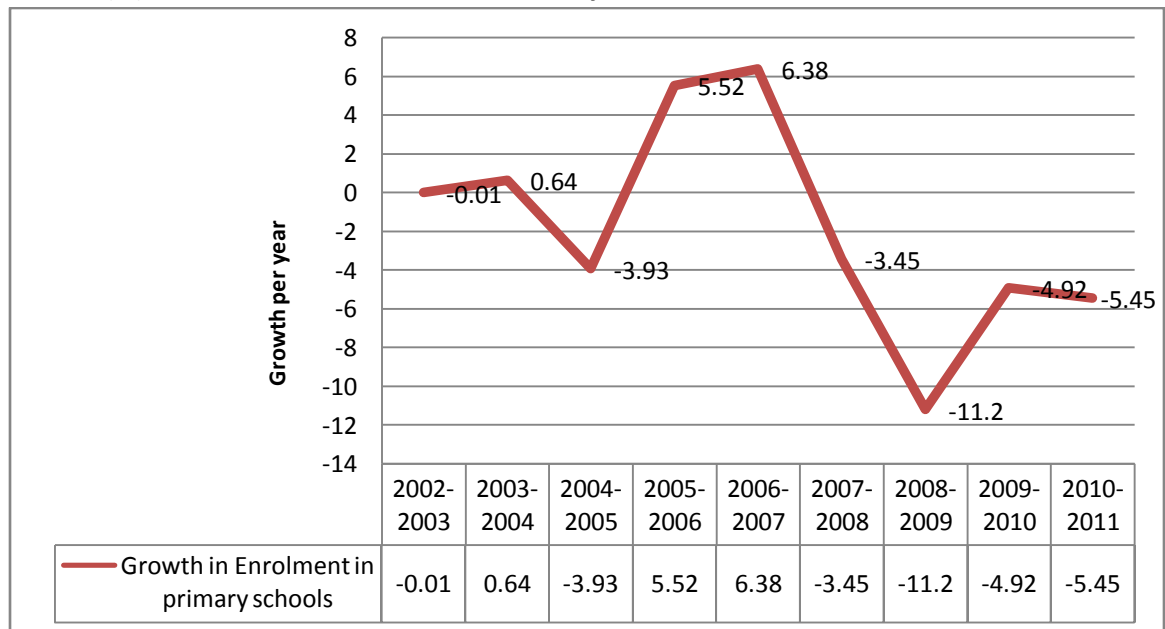


Fig 1

Table 1 and fig 1 indicates that enrolment in Government Primary schools has consistently been declining. In 2002-2003 the growth of the enrolment was -0.01%. Which rose up to 0.64% in 2003-2004. But again the growth of enrolment decreased up to -3.93% in 2004-2005 session. During the session 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 the growth were found 5.52% and 6.38% respectively. From the session 2007-2008 to 2010-2011 the growth of enrolment declined by consistently as -3.45%, -11.25%, -4.92% and -5.45% respectively. N.S. Sahani (April 5, 2014) Correspondent Hindustan times writes "Admission rush in private schools, but government schools 'chill out'. Mr. Sahani says there is an alarming situation for government primary Schools for decrease in enrolment. There are more than 1,300 government schools in Dehradun district facing no rush of admissions.

Objective -2 of this study was to compare the growth of population in Dehradun district with growth in enrolment in government primary schools in Dehradun district year wise from 2000 to 2011. Following table and figure is showing the growth of population and enrolment.

Table 2

Comparison of growth (%) in Population in Dehradun District with growth (%) in Enrolment in government Primary Schools in Dehradun District Year wise from 2000 to 2011

Year	Growth in Population (%)	Growth in Enrolment (%)
2000-2001	3.23	NA
2001-2002	3.13	NA
2002-2003	3.03	-0.01
2003-2004	2.94	0.64
2004-2005	2.86	-3.93
2005-2006	2.78	5.52
2006-2007	2.7	6.38
2007-2008	2.63	-3.45
2008-2009	2.56	-11.2
2009-2010	2.5	-4.92
2010-2011	2.44	-5.45

Source- DISE Data

Comparison of growth (%) in Population in Dehradun District with growth (%) in Enrolment in government Primary Schools in Dehradun District Year wise from 2000 to 2011

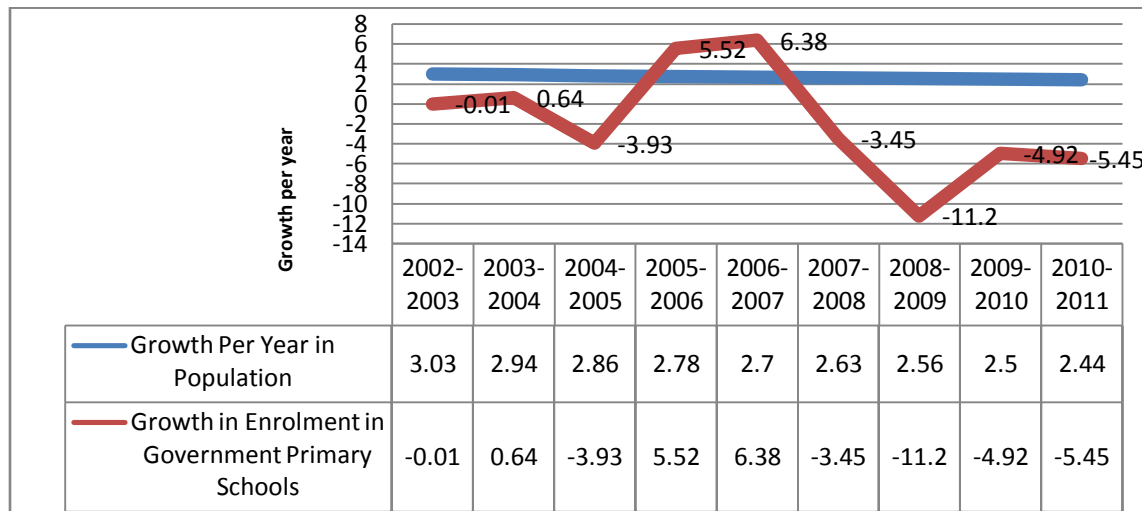


Fig 2

Table 2 and Figure 2 reveal growth in Population and growth in Enrolment per year from 2001 to 2011. Growth in Population has been almost consistent from the year of 2000-2001 to 2002-2003. It was 3.23 %, 3.13 % and 3.03% respectively. From 20003-2004 there is a slight decline in the population growth and it was 2.94% in 2003-2004 and 2.86%, 2.71% in 2004-2005 and in 2005-2006. In 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009 and in 2009-2010, 2010-2011 growth percentage was 2.7%, 2.63%, 2.56%, 2.5 % and 2.44% respectively. Growth in Enrolment has been negative in most of the years. In session 2002-2003 growth in enrolment was -0.01% and in 2003-2004 growth was 0.64%. In 2004-2005 sessions negative growth -3.93% was found. In 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 session growth was 5.52 and 6.38% respectively. From the session 2007-2008 to 2010-2011 the growth was consistently calculated negative as -3.45%, -11.2%, -4.92% and -5.45% respectively. Barthwal, R. (2014, September 17) points out that more than 2044 primary schools are going to close. In his article in Dainik Jagran Mr. Ravindra Barhtwal expressed deep concern about the government primary schools in Uttarakhand. In Uttarakhand there are 2044 primary schools where enrolment is below 10 and going to close. This is 13 percent of total primary schools in Uttarakhand. More than 60 government primary schools having zero enrolment. There are 380 primary schools in pauri, 330 in pithoragarh, 280 in Almora, 170 in Tihri, 165 in Chamoli, 122 in Dehradun, 105 in Uttarkashi, 90 in Rudraprayag, 75 in Bageswar, 60 in Champwat, 45 in Nainitaland 04 primary schools in Udham Singh nagar are going to close due to low enrolment which is below 10.

Objective-3 of this was to compare growth of government primary school teachers and enrolment of government primary schools year wise from 2000 to 2011. Following table and figure is showing growth of teachers and growth in enrolment.

Table 3

Comparison of growth (%) of teachers in Government Primary Schools with growth (%) of Enrolment in Government Primary Schools in Dehradun District Year wise from 2000 to 2011

Year	Growth (%) of teachers	Growth (%) in Enrolment
2000-2001	NA	NA
2001-2002	NA	NA
2002-2003	3.95	-0.01
2003-2004	-9.17	0.64
2004-2005	-10.79	-3.93
2005-2006	10.32	5.52
2006-2007	6.57	6.38
2007-2008	-3.99	-3.45
2008-2009	-0.97	-11.2
2009-2010	-8.53	-4.92
2010-2011	2.39	-5.45

Source-DISE Data

Comparison of growth (%) of teachers in Government Primary Schools with growth (%) of Enrolment in Government Primary Schools in Dehradun District Year wise from 2000 to 2011

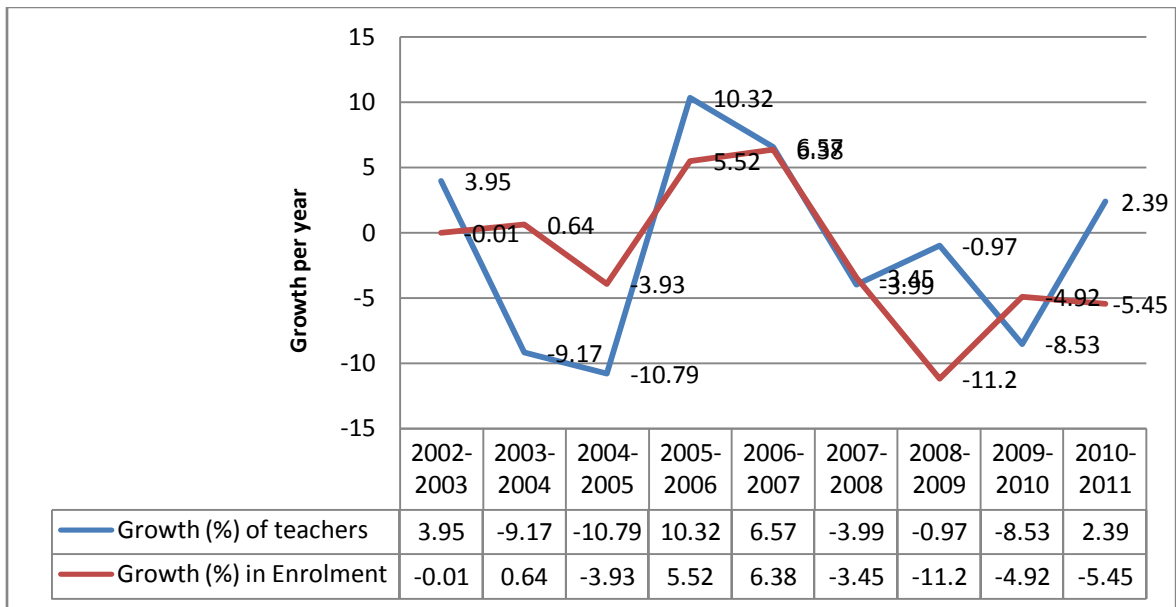


Fig 3

Table 3 and figure 3 indicates the Comparison of growth of teachers in government primary schools with growth of enrolment in government primary schools in Dehradun district year wise from 2000 to 2011. During 2002-2003 sessions growth of teachers was 3.95 and in 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 session growth was negative -9.17 and -10.79 respectively. In 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 session growth was 10.32 and 6.57 respectively. From 2007-2008 to 2009-2010 sessions negative growth -3.99, -0.97 and -8.53 was found respectively. During 2002-2003 session growth in enrolment was negative -0.01. During

2003-2004 sessions growth in enrolment was 0.64. During 2004-2005 growth was again negative -3.93. During 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 sessions growth was 5.52 and 6.38 respectively. From 2007-2008 to 2010-2011 sessions the growth was negative as -3.45, -11.2 and -4.92 respectively. During the session 2010-2011 growth was 2.39. **Bora, B. S. (2014, September 17)**. Correspondent Amar Ujala, Dehradun points out that more than five thousand government primary schools are going to close in Uttarakhand. According to Mr. Bora in the session 2013-2014 more than 178 primary schools have been closed due to Zero enrolment. And more than 5,645 government primary schools are going to close. Out of 5,645 primary schools, 800 primary schools are having below 5 students in each school and remaining schools are also having below 20 students in each school.

Findings of the study

Enrolment in Government Primary schools has consistently been declining. In 2002-2003 the growth of the enrolment was -0.01%. Which rose up to 0.64% in 2003-2004. But again the growth of enrolment decreased up to -3.93% in 2004-2005 session. During the session 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 the growth were found 5.52% and 6.38% respectively. From the session 2007-2008 to 2010-2011 the growth of enrolment declined by consistently as -3.45%, -11.25%, -4.92% and -5.45% respectively. **N.S. Sahani (April 5, 2014)** Correspondent Hindustan times writes "Admission rush in private schools, but government schools 'chill out'. Mr. Sahani says there is an alarming situation for government primary Schools for decrease in enrolment. There are more than 1,300 government schools in Dehradun district facing no rush of admissions. Growth in Population has been almost consistent from the year of 2000-2001 to 2002-2003. It was 3.23 %, 3.13 % and 3.03% respectively. From 2003-2004 there is a slight decline in the population growth and it was 2.94% in 2003-2004 and 2.86%, 2.71% in 2004-2005 and in 2005-2006. In 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009 and in 2009-2010, 2010-2011 growth percentage was 2.7%, 2.63%, 2.56%, 2.5 % and 2.44% respectively. Growth in Enrolment has been negative in most of the years. In session 2002-2003 growth in enrolment was -0.01% and in 2003-2004 growth was 0.64%. In 2004-2005 sessions negative growth -3.93% was found. In 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 session growth was 5.52 and 6.38% respectively. From the session 2007-2008 to 2010-2011 the growth was consistently calculated negative as -3.45%, -11.2%, -4.92% and -5.45% respectively. **Barhtwal, R. (2014, September 17)** points out that more than 2044 primary schools are going to close. In his article in Dainik Jagran Mr. Ravindra Barhtwal expressed deep concern about the government primary schools in Uttarakhand. According to Mr. Barhtwal, in Uttarakhand state there are 2044 primary schools where enrolment is below 10 and going to close. This is 13 percent of total primary schools in Uttarakhand. More than 60 government primary schools having zero enrolment. There are 380 primary schools in pauri, 330 in pithoragarh, 280 in Almora, 170 in Tihri, 165 in Chamoli, 122 in Dehradun, 105 in Uttarkashi, 90 in Rudraprayag, 75 in Bageswar, 60 in Champwat, 45 in Nainitaland 04 primary schools in Udham Singh nagar are going to close due to low enrolment which is below 10. During 2002-2003 sessions growth of teachers was 3.95 and in 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 session growth was negative -9.17 and -10.79 respectively. In 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 session growth was 10.32 and 6.57 respectively. From 2007-2008 to 2009-2010 sessions negative growth -3.99, -0.97 and -8.53 was found respectively. During 2002-2003 session growth in enrolment was negative -0.01. During 2003-2004 sessions growth in enrolment was 0.64. During 2004-2005 growth was again negative -3.93. During 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 sessions growth was 5.52 and

6.38 respectively. From 2007-2008 to 2010-2011 sessions the growth was negative as -3.45, -11.2 and -4.92 respectively. During the session 2010-2011 growth was 2.39. **Bora, B. S. (2014, September 17)**. Correspondent Amar Ujala, Dehradun points out that more than five thousand government primary schools are going to close in Uttarakhand. According to Mr. Bora in the session 2013-2014 more than 178 primary schools have been closed due to Zero enrolment. And more than 5,645 government primary schools are going to close. Out of 5,645 primary schools, 800 primary schools are having below 5 students in each school and remaining schools are also having below 20 students in each school.

Conclusion

Education is not a short term process but a life-long process. It cannot be provided in a vacuum. Education is furnished and developed by a variety of people and influences. These include parents, the society, teachers, Academicians, educationist, Philosopher and the government, among others social, economic, and cultural considerations also have an influence on education, all these factors play a very important role in the development and education of the individual. Hence, the links between them are of major importance in the promotion of achievement in learning, as well as in children's development. Primary Education is considered as a foundation on which the whole life of a child depends on. Primary Education decides the future of the child. Findings of the study reveal that enrolment in government primary schools is not increasing whereas the population is consistently rising up in last decade in Dehradun district. It is shifting towards private schools. **Annual Status of Education Report, (Rural, 2012)** observed a shifting from Government schools to private schools. According to ASER report at the all India level private school enrollment has been rising steadily since 2006. The percentage of 6 to 14 year olds enrolled in private schools rose from 18.7% in 2006 to 25.6% in 2011. This year this number has further increased to 28.3%. Increase in private school enrollment is seen in almost all states, with the exception of Kerala, Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya (where private school enrollment was over 40% even last year) and Tripura. Since 2009, private school enrollment in rural areas has been rising at an annual rate of about 10%. If this trend continues, by 2018 India will have 50% children in rural areas enrolled in private schools. **N.S. Sahani (April 5, 2014)** Correspondent Hindustan times says there is an alarming situation for government primary Schools for decrease in enrolment. There are more than 1,300 government schools in Dehradun district facing no rush of admissions. **Barhtwal, R. (2014, September 17)** points out that more than 2044 primary schools are going to close. In his article in Dainik Jagran Mr. Ravindra Barhtwal expressed deep concern about the government primary schools in Uttarakhand. According to Mr. Barhtwal, in Uttarakhand state there are 2044 primary schools where enrolment is below 10 and going to close. Teacher's growth rate was also found negative in most of the years which can badly affect the teaching and learning process in the schools which is also a big reason of low enrolment in government primary schools. There are so many factors were found responsible for low enrolment and poor teaching and learning process in government primary schools. Infrastructure facilities are very poor in primary schools. School buildings are in poor condition. Buildings are not maintained properly. Furniture was also not available for students; they were sitting either on floor or on rough mat. Mid day meal distribution was also not proper in most of the schools. It was not found hygienic in almost every school. Water and toilet facilities were also found very poor in primary schools. **Raju Pushola (2015)** Correspondent Dainik Jagran, Dehradun, visited a government primary school

Challang which is just 10 Km. from secretariat. Mr. Pushola found school building in very poor condition which can be dangerous for students any time. Students were helpless and forced to study in verandah. Primary schools are also usually facing lack of basic facilities like Toilets, Electricity, Play ground, libraries, Furniture and even school building. Students suffer when teachers went out on administrative work or go for other official meeting with higher authorities. And the problems are further increased by the time when teachers are forced to do non teaching activities like ensuring mid day meal or for conducting census or election duty as frequently called upon by the officials and local government. **Shishir Prashant, (February 11, 2013)** Correspondent of Business Standard points out that, Uttarakhand government is planning to run its Primary schools under the private public partnership (PPP) mode. In the first phase, eight primary schools in Dehradun district would be operated under a pilot project scheme, official sources said. According to the state PPP cell, the enrolment level in government primary schools is continuously dropping due to lack of basic infrastructure, shortage of teaching staff, sub-standard quality of education and medium of education not being English has forced the government to adopt PPP route for running these primary schools. The eight primary schools are *Hakikatrai* Nagar primary school, *Bapunagar* primary school, *Chakhuwala No 2* primary school, *Araghar No 1* primary school, *Sayeedpur* primary school, *Amrit Kaur Road* primary school, *Jhadipani* primary school and *Dhudli* primary school,

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